

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

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R 240720Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6376

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0973

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, IS

SUBJECT: RADIO ISRAEL BROADCAST CONCERNING SYRIAN JEWS

1. WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON BACKGROUND AND CREDENTIALS OF DR. RAMONI, BAR ELANI UNIVERSITY, ISRAEL, (BOTH PHONETIC). DR. RAMONI WAS IDENTIFIED ON RADIO ISRAEL AS A LIBYAN JEW NOW "DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL GROUPS" AT THE UNIVERSITY. HE WAS INTERVIEWED OVER KOL ISRAEL FOLLOWING 1200Z NEWS BROADCAST ON PAST TWO WEDNESDAYS WITH THIRD IN THREE PART SERIES SCHEDULED FOR BROADCAST FEBRUARY 25. HIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN THE FATE OF JEWS FROM ARAB LANDS.

2. FEBRUARY 18 BROADCAST IN COURSE DISCUSSION LOT OF SYRIAN JEWS INCLUDING STATEMENTS:

(A) THEY SUFFER FROM SICKNESS,

(B) THEY ARE FORCED INTO GHETTOES, AND

(C) THEY HAVE NO SCHOOLS.

WE WILL NEVER BE APOLOGISTS FOR SYRIAN REGIME CONCERNING
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TREATMENT OF SYRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY, BUT FACTS ARE:

(A) THERE ARE JEWISH SCHOOLS HERE UNDER JOINT JEWISH/
MUSLIM ADMINISTRATION;

(B) SYRIAN JEWS IN DAMASCUS, COMMUNITY WITH WHICH
WE ARE MOST FAMILIAR, ARE NOT FORCED TO LIVE IN TRADITIONAL
JEWISH QUARTER; SOME HAVE RELOCATED IN ADJACENT CHRISTIAN
QUARTER AND FURTHER AFIELD.

(C) THERE IS A SURPLUS OF JEWISH DOCTORS IN DAMASCUS IN
RELATION TO COMMUNITY NEEDS. WITH 14 IN ACTIVE PRACTICE MOST
DEPEND FOR THEIR LIVELIHOOD LARGELY ON MUSLIM AND
CHRISTIAN PATIENTS.
MURPHY

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NNN

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